GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2882
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING REFORMS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accepted the recommendation made by the inter-ministerial task force on agricultural marketing reforms;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations that have been accepted along with the time by which these would be implemented;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to persuade the States to amend their respective Agricultural Produce and Marketing Regulation Acts in order to encourage the private sector to make massive investments required for the development and establishment of the integrated facilities and support services which in turn promote marketing of agricultural produce;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to permit private corporates and cooperative entities to undertake direct marketing of agricultural commodities from the producing areas to farmers fields without the necessity of going through licensed traders and regulated markets;

(e) whether the Government proposes to introduce any legal reforms to facilitate the introduction of a negotiable `warehouse receipts system` for agricultural commodities; and

(f) if so, the measures being envisaged to put the said system into operation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (d): Recommendations of the inter-Minister Task Force on Agricultural Marketing Reforms were discussed with the Ministers dealing with the subject of Agricultural Marketing of all State Governments and Union Territory Administration and the representative of the concerned Departments/Agencies of the Central Government at a National Conference held under the Chairmanship of Hon`ble Agriculture Minister at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 27.09.02. There was a consensus among all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on the need to introduce reforms in the Agricultural Marketing sector. Since the subject of the agricultural marketing fell within the purview of State Governments, they were advised to go ahead with the implementations of the reforms measures as suited to them.

With a view to evolve an action plan for the implementation of the reforms, and to give effect to the recommendations made by the Task Force in this regard, a Standing Committee of State Ministers has been set up on 13.11.2002 under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State (Agriculture).

A Central Sector Scheme for the Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing infrastructure has been formulated to attract investment from private and cooperative sectors in market infrastructure development projects including infrastructure for direct marketing of agricultural commodities from producers to consumers/processing units/bulk buyers etc. Planning Commission has given `in principle` approval to the scheme for implementation during Xth Plan period.

(e)&(f): Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Agricultural Marketing Reforms has recommended that warehousing receipt may be made a negotiable instrument. Central Warehousing Corporation has constituted a Committee to, inter-alia, work on this warehousing system for recommending steps to be taken for making warehouse receipt a negotiable instrument. The report of the Committee is awaited.